

MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION STEERING COMMITTEE
(Real Choice Systems Change Grant)

Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2005

Present: *MH Planning Council Adult Services Committee:* Jack Wood, Brian Parrish, Beverly Ball, Alison Hymes, Mary Kay Johnston; *Peer Run Service Provider:* Will J. Gallik, Jr.; *Consumer Advocates/Leadership Training:* Deborah Pugh; *Community Services Board Representatives:* Philip Campbell; *Peer Specialist Trainers:* Cynthia Harrison, David Mangano; *State Agency Partners:* Marie Worley; *Private Providers:* Karen Tefelski; Wendy Gradison; *DMHMRSAS:* Jim Martinez, Michael Shank, Sharon Koehler

Guests: Cassandra Nudel, VOCAL; Ann Benner, VOCAL

Materials Distributed: DMHMRSAS Vision for a New System of Services: Self-Determination, Empowerment and Recovery; Mental Health Systems Change Grant application, abstract, work plans, original and revised budget and goals; update on the Recovery Oriented System Indicators (ROSI) Measure: Consumer Survey and Administrative-Data Profile (June 2004); agenda for New Freedom Initiative: Building Sustainable Systems for Independence Conference (2/28/-3/2/05) in Baltimore; sample job description for the grant Project Coordinator position.

Jim Martinez reviewed three core business goals of DMHMRSAS: 1. Making our system of care more recovery-oriented; 2. Strengthening partnerships; and 3. Influencing policy. For the purposes of this grant, the priority policy focus is on Medicaid reimbursement for the evidence based practice (EBPs) of Illness Management and Recovery and peer provided services. The EBP of Supported Employment will remain a focus to the extent possible given the project's ambitious goals.

Sharon Koehler provided a brief update on the revised project budget and goals and information about the New Freedom Initiative Conference in Baltimore.

Michael Shank guided the Steering Committee in a review and discussion of the *Work Plan: Virginia's Project for Mental Health System Transformation*.

Topic/Issue Area Identification:

- How to motivate people to learn more about recovery
- Control vs. risk in transitioning services to focus on self-determination, empowerment and recovery
- How to embrace accountability, there are consumer and provider perspectives
- For meaningful change to occur, DMHMRSAS will need to continue to exert leadership at the highest levels
- All services need to be *consumer driven* and differentiated from consumer operated services
- Consumers and providers can partner to create a pool of services
- There are smarter ways to do things, such as *Consumer Directed Health Care Accounts* (Self-Determination Series from the University of Illinois).

- Identifying the Steering Committee's scope when considering Medicaid policy and financing options.
- Identifying CSB resources/partnerships to support the Steering Committee's efforts.
- The potential limitations in DMAS requirements for para-professionals.
- How best to organize the committee's work to achieve the specified work products and outcomes.
- Identified issues need to be recorded.

Interview Panel for Project Coordinator: Beverly Ball and Marie Worley volunteered to serve on the interview panel for the project coordinator position.

New Freedom Conference Participation: Will Gallik, Jr. and Jack Wood submitted registration information to attend the conference in Baltimore.

Next Steps: OMH staff will consider options for organizing the Steering Committee's work and will communicate this to committee members prior to the next meeting.

Committee members asked that copies of the grant RFP, Virginia's Medicaid Manual, and an article on implementing evidence-based practices be disseminated.

A link to the Real Choice Systems Change Grant, Solicitation, Fact Sheet and Grantee Summary can be found [here](#).

This is a link to [the Department of Medical Assistance Community Mental Health Rehabilitation Services Manual](#).

Here you will find an article entitled [Implementing Evidence-Based Practices for Persons With Severe Mental Illnesses](#) by Torrey et al from **Psychiatric Services**, January 2001, Vol. 52 No. 1.

This link will take you to [Information and implementation tool kits for all six evidence-based practices](#) for adults with a mental illness.

These are specific links to the [Illness Management and Recovery Implementation Toolkit](#) and the [Supported Employment Implementation Toolkit](#).

Scheduled 2005 Steering Committee Meetings

Second Friday, every other month from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., in Charlottesville to coincide with the Adult MH Planning Council meetings:

March 11th

May 13th

July 8th

September 9th

Alternate meeting locations/meal providers were suggested.

